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Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether, in view of the fact that students have undergone the course without knowing that this power of exemption will be withdrawn from the Heads of departments, Government propose to show any concession to such students?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I don't think so."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the Government have considered the advisability of raising the age of applicants from 25 to 27?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"They have raised the age from 25 to 27."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know then whether such of those as suffered from the age limitation, who have now been enabled to get into the selection, will also be given the chance of appearing before the Committee?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The matter is under consideration, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the hon. the Minister is aware that the Services Commission have asked the applicants to see them on the 4th of next month?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"If Government come to a decision before that, perhaps the Commission will be informed."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the Government will consider the advisability of postponing the selection till all the applicants who are eligible can also be called and then holding a general selection?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The matter is under consideration."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Government consider it favourably?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"No undertaking can be given, but they will consider the question."

"Activated Sludge" experiments in the Government Central Farm Estate, Coimbatore.

* 370 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long ago and under whose initiative the "Activated Sludge" experiments were started in the Government Central Farm Estate, Coimbatore;

(*b*) what was the capital outlay on the plant;

(*c*) whether any, and what, royalty has been paid or included in the cost;

(*d*) to what country the patent rights belong;

(*e*) what is the nature and cost of construction of buildings and accessories that have been provided;

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(*f*) what have been the expenses incurred yearly on (1) the staff and (2) the running and maintenance costs of the machinery;

(*g*) whether the staff in charge of the installation has been selected from the department or recruited on special merits and whether they receive any special allowances;

(*h*) whether the Government have any contract or understanding with the suppliers of the plant for expert supervision and advice;

(*i*) what has been the yearly output of manure in tons since the plant was erected and what has been the cost of production per ton including depreciation of machinery and supervision charges;

(*j*) how the chemical analysis of this manure compares with the compost of human excreta made by municipalities; at what price per ton this manure is valued on a chemical analysis basis and what profit the Government has made by this innovation; and

(*k*) whether the plant is large enough to supply manure for all the experimental stations around the Central Farm and whether any surplus manure has been sold to the ryots and what has been the sale-proceeds realized so far?

A.—(*a*) In 1926 the Director of Agriculture suggested to Government to install an Activated Sludge plant at Coimbatore.

(*b*) & (*c*) Completion report is awaited from the Public Works Department.

(*d*) England.

(*e*) The following buildings and accessories were constructed:—

(i) Two macerating tanks;

(ii) one settlement tank;

(iii) five æration tanks;

(iv) four reactivation tanks;

(v) one effluent reservoir;

(vi) one engine-shed; and

(vii) covered and open drains to convey the sullage.

The cost will be known from the completion report which is awaited from the Public Works Department.

(*g*) The staff consists of the engine drivers and a watchman. No special allowance of any kind is paid to them.

(*h*) No.

(*f*), (*i*) (*j*) & (*k*) The plant was taken over by the Agricultural Department on 8th September 1931. It is, therefore, too early to give any information on these points.

The Agricultural Chemist will conduct experiments hereafter.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether any estimate was prepared before the work was actually started? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I want notice, Sir."